

January 15, 2014

The Public Service Commission convened in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, on January 15, 2014, 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Kalk, Christmann, and Fedorchak.

Minutes

Mr. Kalk: I move the minutes of December 18, 30, 2013 be approved.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AU-13-870  
Gary Walks  
Auctioneer  
License Application

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission approve the auctioneer license application for Gary Walks, Jamestown, North Dakota.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-14-14  
Otter Tail Power Company  
2014 Renewable Resource Cost  
Recovery Adj. Factor  
Rates

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission suspend Otter Tail Power Company's rates filed with its Renewable Resource Cost Recovery Rider application, Case No. PU-14-14.

MRD

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-14-18  
Northern States Power Company  
Cogeneration - Small Power  
Production  
Rates

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission approve Northern States Power Company's updated Cogeneration and Small Power Production Rates, Case No. PU-14-18.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-13-199  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.,  
a Division of MDU  
Crescent Point Energy U.S. Inc. -  
Divide County  
Public Convenience & Necessity

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission grant Burke Divide Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s withdrawal of its protest and request for hearing, and cancel the hearing scheduled for February 3, 2014 in the application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. to extend electric service to Crescent Point Energy U.S. Inc. at a location in Divide County, North Dakota, Case No. PU-13-199.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-13-187  
Karas Construction, Inc.  
Damage Prevention Enforcement

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission adopt the Consent Order in the Public Service Commission's damage prevention enforcement action concerning Karas Construction, Inc., Case No. PU-13-187.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-13-900  
Great River Energy  
DC Line Clearance Issues  
Siting Application

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing in the application of Great River Energy for a variance from Special Condition #4 of Route Permit No. 1 regarding minimum ground clearances of four conductor spans along its 400 kV DC Line in Burleigh, Kidder and McLean Counties, Case No. PU-13-900.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Coal Regulatory and AML Programs  
2013 OSM Evaluation Reports

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission accept the federal Office of Surface Mining's 2013 Evaluation Reports for the Coal Regulatory and Abandoned Mine Lands Programs.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. GE-14-19  
CHS, Inc.  
Facility-Based Grain Buyer  
Discontinue Business

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt an order in Case No. GE-14-19 cancelling facility-based grain buyer license numbers 2180 and 2048 respectively issued to CHS, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota, at the Grafton and Killdeer, North Dakota locations and ordering that business at Grafton and Killdeer, North Dakota is discontinued effective immediately.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-13-898  
Cass County Electric Coop /  
City of Valley City  
Service Area Agreement

Ms. Fedorchak: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Filing, Notice of Informal Hearing and Notice of Opportunity For Hearing in the joint application of Cass County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the City of Valley City for approval of a service area agreement to establish and designate service locations to be served by Cass Electric and the City in and around Valley City, North Dakota, Case No. PU-13-898.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-14-14  
Otter Tail Power Company  
2014 Renewable Resource Cost  
Recovery Adj. Factor  
Rates

Ms. Fedorchak: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing in Otter Tail Power Company's application for its Renewable Resource Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor, Case No. PU-14-14.

Mr. Christmann: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Post Probationary Period Salary  
Adjustment

Mr. Kalk: I move the approval of a salary increase effective January 7, 2014 for Position No. 408-5019, upon the satisfactory completion of the twelve-month probationary period, in an amount consistent with the terms set forth in the Commission's December 11, 2012 offer of employment, plus a 5% equity and performance increase that non-probationary employees were eligible to receive July 1, 2013 as budgeted for and as provided by Section 13 of House Bill 1015 of the sixty-third Legislative Assembly.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-13-803  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.,  
a Division of MDU  
Natural Gas Service Rate Increase  
Application

Mr. Kalk: I move the Commission appoint Jerry Lein as advocacy staff in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s Natural Gas Service Rate Increase Application, Case No. PU-13-803.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

ATTEST

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 12:06 P.M.

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Executive Secretary

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BRIAN P. KALK, CHAIRMAN